GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1422
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2017
Production of Ethanol
Ram Mohan Naidu Shri Kinjarapu

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to use sugarcane crops as feedstock for production of biofuels like ethanol;
(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
(c) whether sugarcane from sugar mills is utilised for any other purposes at present and if so, the details thereof; and
(d) the manner in which used up/ consumed sugarcane crop is disposed off currently in the Country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)
(a) & (b): No, Madam. Sugarcane, being an essential commodity, is not allowed to be used as a feedstock for production of bio-fuels like ethanol, as per the provisions of Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966. In view of the fact that sugarcane is used for production of sugar, which is an important daily dietary component and hence cannot be spared for the production of bio-fuels like ethanol.
(c) & (d): No, Madam. Sugarcane is utilized by the sugar mills only for the production of sugar. During the processing of sugarcane; bagasse, press mud and molasses are generated as primary by-products which are used for co-generation of power, preparation of bio-manure and production of potable alcohol/ethanol/industrial alcohol respectively.
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